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ABSTRACT

Weekend College at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis is described with attention to learning later in life. In the first 10 years, Weekend College has offered 325 courses. Students have come long distances, some more than 100 miles, to attend classes. The following advantages of Weekend College have been cited by students: mothers can get babysitters more easily on weekends; workers are not as tired on weekends; there is more time to commute on the weekend than in the evening; and the less hectic weekend setting is inviting to those who have been away from college for some time. The courses and faculty are the same as in the regular weekend courses. Some regular students enroll in Weekend College to accelerate their progress toward a degree. Eight degrees/certificates that can be earned entirely through Weekend College are: Master of Science in Elementary Education; Associate and Bachelor of General Studies; Associate and Bachelor of General Studies with concentration in Labor Studies; Associate of Arts; Certificate in Business Studies; and Certificate in Labor Studies. Those who enroll in weekend classes must be admitted to the university as regular graduate or undergraudate students on a degree or nondegree basis. Comments from students and teachers are included. (SW)

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the Treatment for Opsimathy

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A MODEL. IUPUI's Weekend College is a model for numerous other college planners who visit classes and discuss programs. Dr. David Wissman, left, Avila College, Missouri, confers with Biology Prof. Richard Pflanzer, center, and Dean James R. East.

WRITING. Individual attention can be given in the University Writing Center as part of the Weekend College curriculum. Instructor Marie Cahill assists a graduate student in nursing.

FINE ART. The absence of daily pressures makes Weekend College classes ideal for concentration in such creative fields as art. It is among more than 140 courses offered on weekends.

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Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis
IUPUI

Opsimathy— the Desirable Disease

A curious disease afflicts human beings today. It's called Opsimathy. It's very desirable to catch and it's growing rapidly. Opsimathy is known as learning later in life and is caused by severe bites from the learning bug.

IUPUI provides a wide and positive exposure to Opsimathy through Weekend College so that as many people as possible can catch it. This campus has become the largest treatment center in the world.

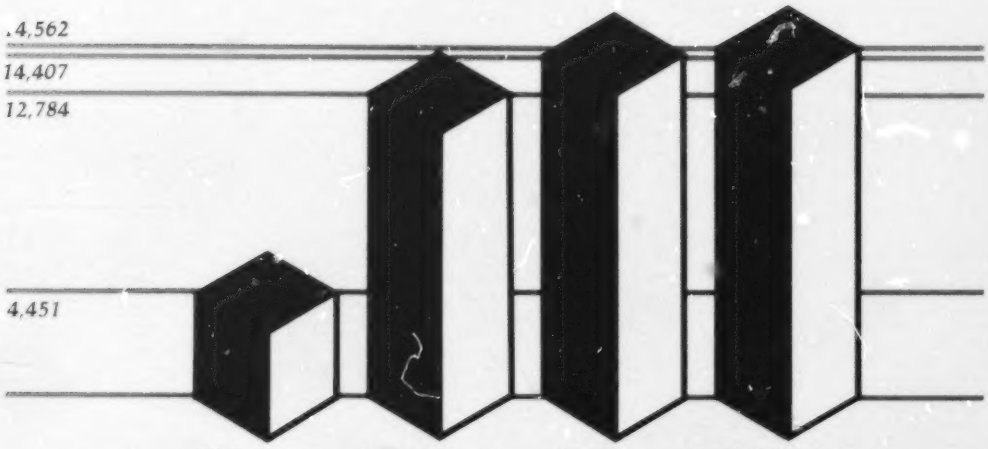
More than 40,000 people in Indiana have been treated for Opsimathy in the 10 years since Weekend College grew from an experiment to its present successful clinic and laboratory. The enthusiasm which some 3,500 persons bring to the campus each semester convinces us that everyone ought to be aware of the symptoms of Opsimathy and the best treatment available is at IUPUI's Weekend College.

Opsimathy is known to strike anyone. Policemen. Secretaries. Dental Technicians. Housewives. Key Punch Operators. Retail Sales Managers. Opthamologists. Medical School Faculty. Grave Diggers. People from at least 252 diverse backgrounds have taken the treatment at IUPUI.

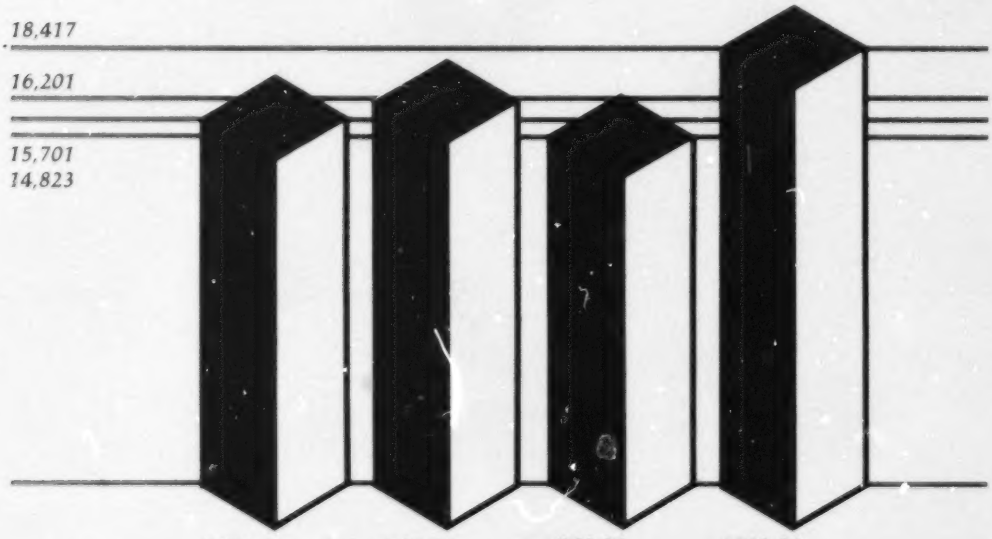
Figures show that this desirable disease is broad based: 63 percent of those stricken are female; 76 percent are age 22 or older; 45 percent are married; 33 percent enrolled at IUPUI for the first time in Weekend College; 24 percent are non-white.

The most common symptom is a fever for learning that rises to its highest point on the weekends—Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays. Subjects resume their normal pursuits during the week, changed only by a noticeable renewed enthusiasm for life, for their future, and for their individual self-worth.

Weekend College Credit Hours:



	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Total IUPUI Credit hours:	25o,412	254,892	249,592	265,306
Weekend College % of total:	1.74%	5.02%	5.7%	5.49%



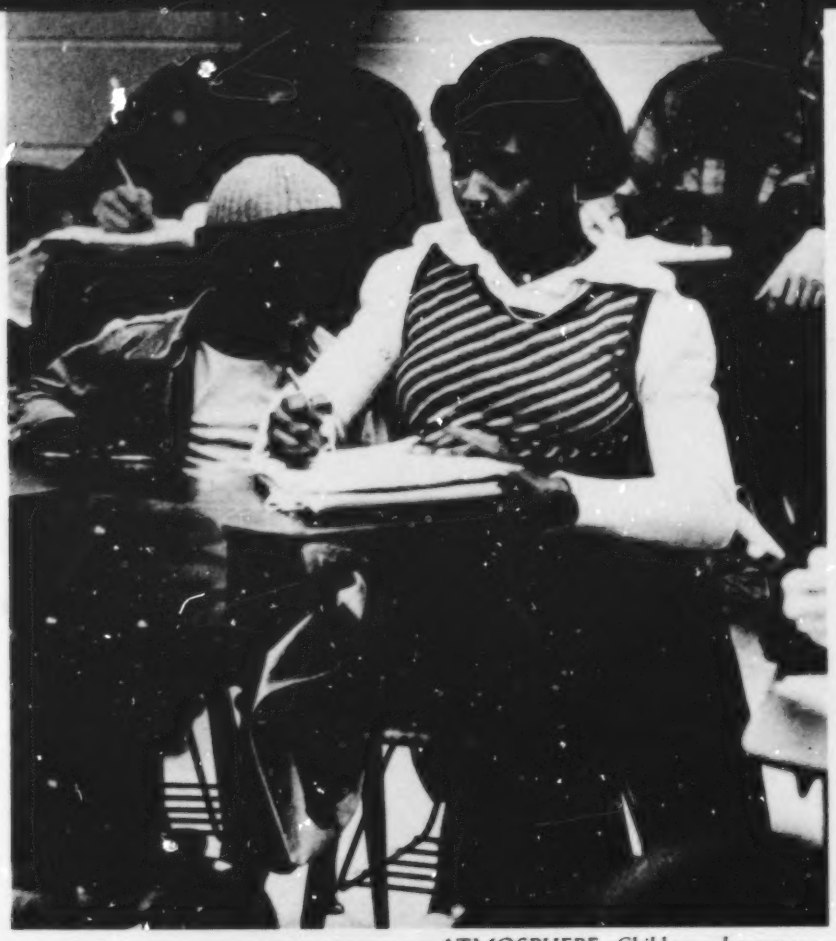
	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Total IUPUI Credit hours:	284,006	297,629	303,869	308,920
Weekend College % of total:	5.53%	5.44%	4.88%	5.96%

How Weekend College Works Its Wonders

In the first 10 years for Weekend College, 325 courses of treatment were offered to the adult "afflictionados" who came to IUPUI for Opsimathy care. It is evident that whatever form the fever takes, Weekend College has a remedy.

The forms of treatment each semester number as many as 150 sections of 100 separate courses from the following 45 areas:

- Afro-American Studies
- Anthropology
- Art
- Communication and Theatre
- Comparative Literature
- Education
- Folklore
- Future Studies
- Geography
- History
- Journalism
- Music
- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Architectural Technology
- Astronomy
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Technology
- Civil Engineering Technology
- Social Work
- Geology
- Industrial Engineering Technology
- Mathematics
- Manufacturing Technology
- Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Business
- Criminal Justice
- Economics
- Labor Studies
- Nursing
- Public and Environmental Affairs
- Supervision
- Arabic
- Chinese
- English
- French
- German
- Russian
- Spanish



ATMOSPHERE. Children who come with parents to weekend classes are benefited by the example of parental learning as well as the educational atmosphere only being on campus can bring. This could not happen during weekday classes.

FROM AFAR. Student travel many miles to attend IUPUI's Weekend College. The record is James Streeter who flew weekly from Fort Myers, FL, and was greeted on one trip by Dean James R. East at the Indianapolis International Airport.

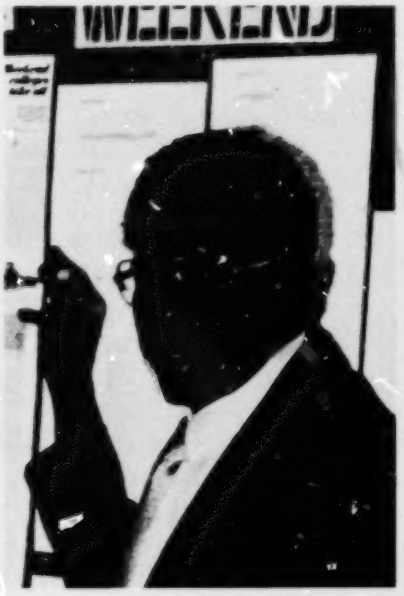
INTERNATIONAL. Learning about Opsimathy, IUPUI style, is Stewart Hall, Humber College, Rexdale, Ontario, Canada, one of numerous international visitors hosted here.

People come long distances to be treated for this wonderful affliction. Although designed for those who live and work within 100 miles of the Indianapolis area—participants have come for an infusion of learning from as far as Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky; Danville, Illinois; and Cincinnati, Ohio. There is one case of a person whose fever was so high that he came from Fort Myers, Florida, every weekend for almost two years to take regular doses of the remedy. The end result—a Bachelor of General Studies degree.

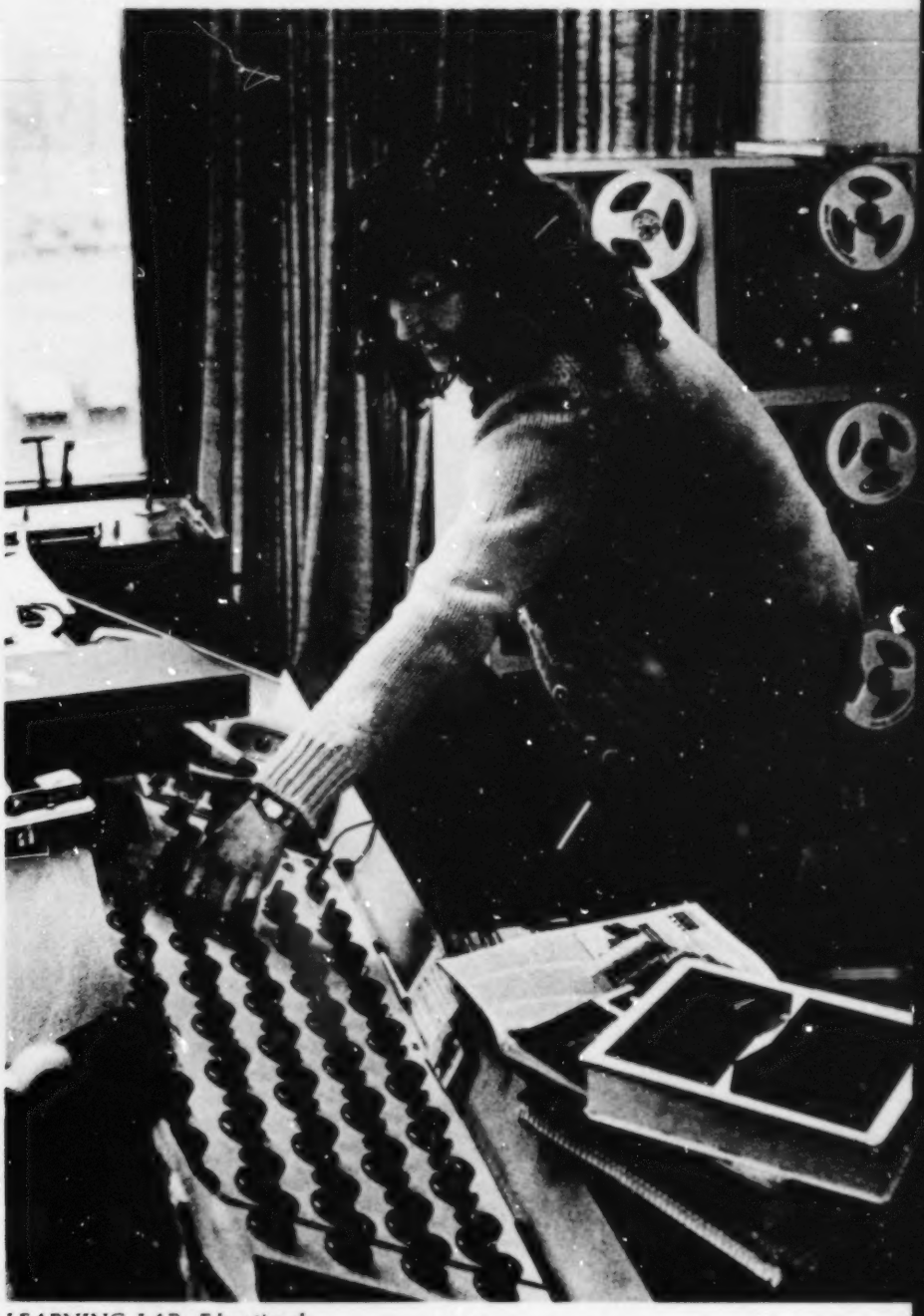
Surveys tell us that some of the following advantages are given for choosing the Weekend College treatment: mothers can get babysitters easier on the weekends, workers are not as tired on weekends as those who come for evening classes; there is more time to travel to the campus on weekends than rushing to evening classes; the less hectic setting is inviting to those who have been away from college for some time and wish to return.

Some tell us that the learning fever has become stronger than the leisure fever and so Weekend College just provides greater satisfaction.

Officials have noted that in Weekend College not much is different from the treatment given to more than 20,000 others in the IUPUI population on weekdays. Courses are from the same academic departments, instructors are from the regular IUPUI faculty, and exposure is the same as in regular courses—except longer sessions usually are held and are only once a week. Some regular students enroll in Weekend College just to accelerate their progress to that coveted degree.



STAFF. William Taylor, assistant to the dean, performs the background work that makes IUPUI's Weekend College a premiere program.



LEARNING LAB. Educational assistance centers are open in IUPUI's Cavanaugh Hall for weekend learners. The Instructional Media Lab is a popular place on weekends.

Opsimathy Continues Incurable

There is no cure for Opsimathy. It is a progressive disease that affects the mind in such a way as to excite the emotions. Studies show that persons afflicted continue treatment for long periods of time—they even become addicted to the special procedures.

A curious phenomenon is that the "afflictionados" seek recognition for their endurance and fortitude. IUPUI has responded with eight coveted honors that can be earned entirely through the rigors of Weekend College:

- Master of Science in Elementary Education
- Bachelor of General Studies
- Bachelor of General Studies with concentration in Labor Studies
- Associate of Arts
- Associate of General Studies
- Associate of General Studies with concentration in Labor Studies
- Certificate in Business Studies (two year)
- Certificate in Labor Studies (one year)

Those who wish to enroll in weekend classes must first be admitted to the University as a regular graduate or undergraduate student on a degree or non-degree basis.

CHEMISTRY. Three Vietnamese students conduct chemistry experiments under the watchful assistance of Instructor Katy Krupa. Chemistry has been a popular Weekend College course since the program began.

LANGUAGES. Always popular Weekend College fare, foreign languages taught at IUPUI on weekends include French, German, Russian, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic, taught by Instructor Mohy Saleh.

CONSULTATIONS. Student-faculty conferences are important to knowledge and understanding. Adults find faculty very willing and always available after classes.

Praise for the Weekend College Treatment

Subjects, observers and leaders have united in praise of Weekend College as the ideal treatment for Opsimathy. The program typically satisfies almost everyone.

From students, these endorsements:

"Weekend College is convenient for me and my family."
— 46 year-old housewife

"It simplifies transportation, babysitting and scheduling other activities."
— 32 year-old part-time secretary

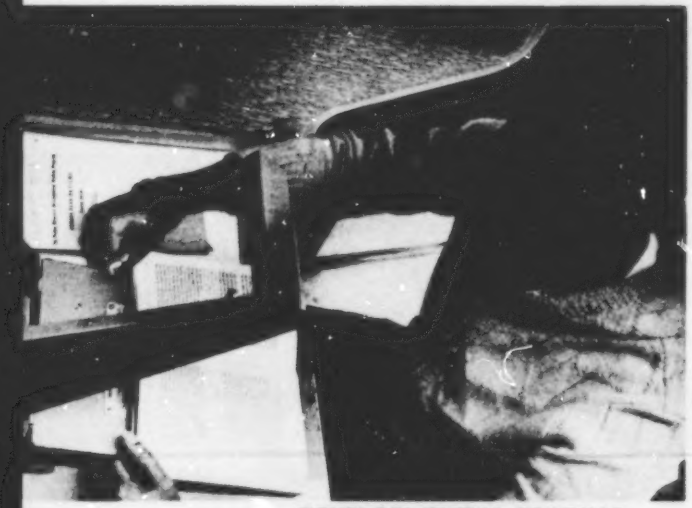
"My wife and I can attend class together."
— 43 year-old office worker

"It does not interfere with my job and my job does not interfere with my education . . . I can have both with no conflict."
— 46 year-old businessman

"It appeals to me because I can take a three-credit course in one day instead of two or three days a week.
—28-year-old former full-time student

PHYSIOLOGY. A five-credit course in human physiology has been successful in Weekend College for six years. A respiration experiment occupies the attention of two students, a lab assistant, and Dr. Richard Pflanzer (second from right).

INDIVIDUAL HELP. In chemistry, as well as other lecture and lab classes, people of all ages receive individual support.



DEVELOPMENTAL READING. Most university classrooms and labs are open for Weekend College classes, including the speed reading labs.

From teachers, these comments are typical:

"Weekend College is an 'ideal setting for excellence'. The setting is not so much physical as it is psychological. Successful instruction in language and literature depends on so much more than the student's intelligence: experience, psychological maturity, a developed identity and ideology and the resultant clarification of goals and increase of motivation.

"Weekend College has provided me classes with a preponderance of adult women in full possession of the broader psychological assets. I find them superior in many ways even to my graduate students. Regularly they seek not only credits and certification but a course to self-realization and a broader, deeper kind of validation of that course from their peers and professors. Such education is education in the best sense."

—Edwin F. Casebeer, professor and chairman, department of English

"The students are more mature, humble, dedicated, hard-working, excited about learning, and most of them appreciate a teacher's efforts. They are worthy of the best an instructor can bring them."

—Louise Dauner, emeritus professor of English and former department chairperson

"The major advantages for the students are first the small classes which provide a chance to interact with the teacher on a level that larger classes of the regular program do not . . . Many of them (students) are coming back to college for the first time in many years . . . I think the small classes allow them to 'settle in' to an academic environment with less trauma than would be the case if they entered the large weekday classes."

—Peter V. Hanford, professor of psychology

"The instructor is free to assume that the students are interested in a high level of achievement. All of the instructor's skills, competence and energies can thus be directed toward challenging students to the highest level of achievement of which they are capable. I find that students respond positively and effectively to this challenge if the 'ground rules' are made explicit in advance."

—Joseph T. Taylor, emeritus professor of sociology and former dean, School of Liberal Arts

From an eminent observer of education:

"Institutions have become ingenious in carrying instruction to students: Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis offers . . . . a 'Weekend College'."

—Clark Kerr, p. 291, *Three Thousand Futures: The Next Twenty Years for Higher Education* (final report of the Carnegie Council of Policy Studies in Higher Education)

From the originator and Dean of IUPUI's Weekend College:

"Although our Weekend College was the first such program in the State of Indiana, it was not unique. There were about 18 other colleges with such programs in 1973 when IUPUI's started. Miami-Dade Community College initiated the first Weekend College in 1965.

"IUPUI's has grown to be the world's largest because of the unparalleled cooperation of university schools and departments that have seen this as another way to extend learning to our citizens. The IUPUI administration has supported the idea financially and with encouragement. Weekend College makes almost full-time use of university facilities on weekends which is an economic benefit to the taxpayers."

—James R. East, Dean,
Weekend College

IUPUI's Weekend College has served as a model for Weekend Colleges at such institutions as Kent State University, Tennessee State University, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Avila College (Kansas City, Missouri), and Humber College (Ontario, Canada). Periodic workshops on Weekend College programming are held at IUPUI.

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For More Information:

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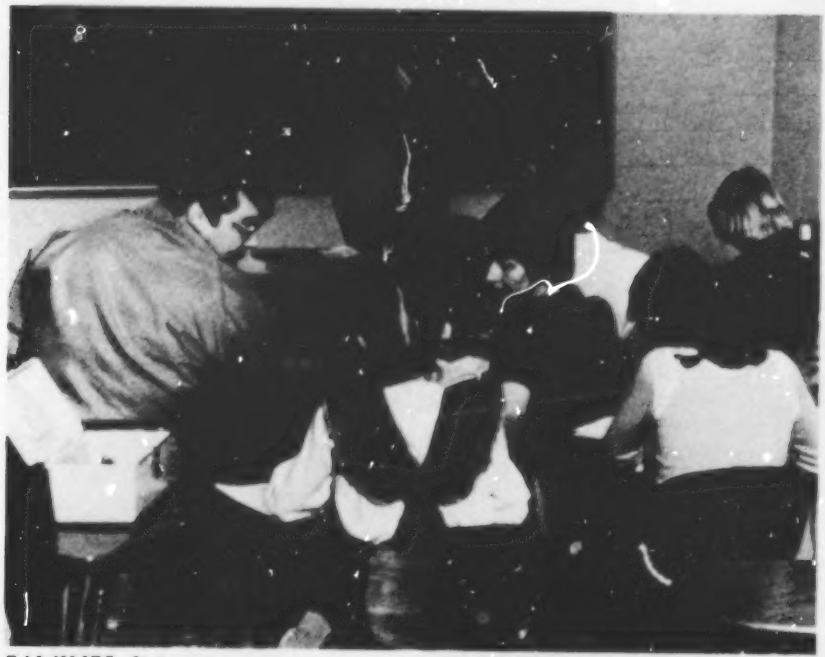

FAMILIES. It is not uncommon for students to bring children to Weekend College classes as Mr. and Mrs. Billy Rakestraw make sure their daughters Christine and Tina are occupied with quiet games and books.

WEEKEND STAFF. Information and non-classroom help is a necessary part of IUPUI's Weekend College. Joy Kramer, standing, and Beatrice Shephard are on duty every weekend.

COUNSELING. Personal counseling, much of it by telephone, is a popular service of Weekend College. Ellie Towne helps numerous students each semester.